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Sent: 02 November 2020 14:12

To: +Comm Procedures Public Email <committee.procedures@niassembly.gov.uk>; Mitford, Nick <Nick.Mitford@niassembly.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Members' Statements and Proxy voting

Hi Stewart

With regard to Members statements the UUP are NOT of a mind that any change to standing orders is needed nor adds to the value of Assembly business at this time. Given that there are only 16 months remaining of this mandate and the added impact covid19 is having even on normal business we believe that if this is a matter others believe may add value that it is sought in the following mandate.

With regard to proxy voting the UUP remain steadfast that proxy voting must only be available in exceptional circumstances and for prescribed reasons. We accept that covid19 is a good example of the value of the system and support its continued use for this purpose. Proxy voting we believe must be an exception rather than a permissive rule and recognise that in respect to maternity, paternity and longer term illness it may be a useful addition.

Regards

Robbie